

Veterans Blvd.

A Class 1 Trail Concept



Veterans Vision

Since 1984, the California Department of Transportation and the City of Fresno have been planning a new six-lane arterial roadway in northwest Fresno. Previously known as the Herndon-Grantland Diagonal, Veterans Boulevard will provide a vital link to State Route 99 for northwest Fresno.



Veterans Boulevard is envisioned by the city of Fresno to be not only an important corridor, but a multi-modal Memorial Drive with public art serving as monumentation in military service themes.

A major component of this vision is a Class 1 Bike Trail extending

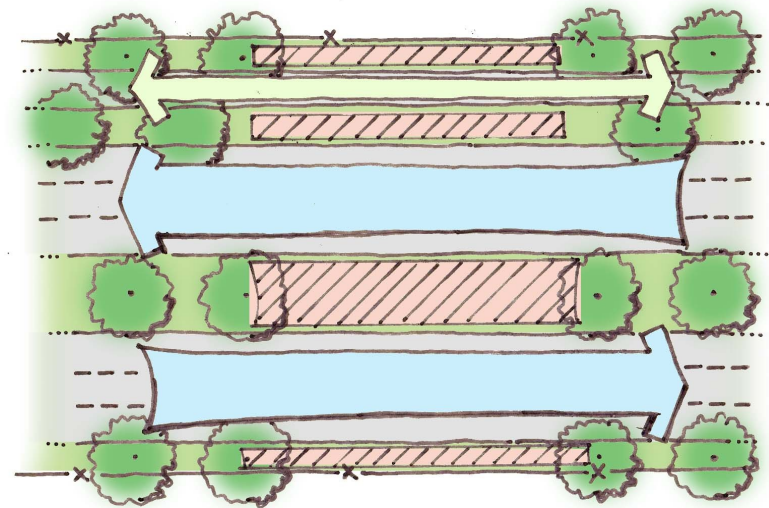


the length of the new road.

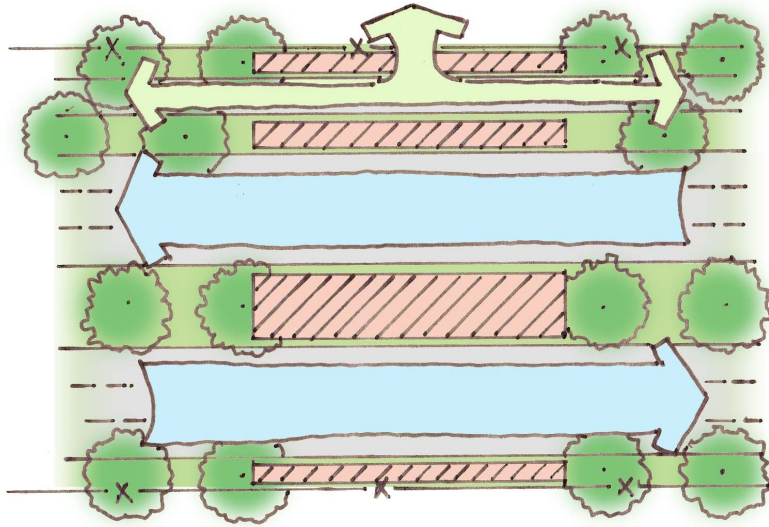
Veterans Trail

The Class 1 trail will be integrated into the design of the new boulevard. The trail will conform to the city's trail guidelines in its design, but will also be part of the memorial drive concept. This means that the trail will be an integrated part of the overall design and a key component to accessing important elements of the drive.

Two obvious scenarios arise when master planning these elements: Those where access to adjacent properties is absent and where it is present. The two following renderings delineate the flow of traffic in conjunction with those scenarios. Median and opposite side roadway designs are encouraged, but for visual access only as physical access will be limited to the trail side of the boulevard.



No access to adjacent property.



Access to adjacent property.

The Memorial Drive Concept

The landscape architecture for the trail will create a single theme for the entire corridor. This will tie all elements and features of the drive together. This will include the consistent use of patterns and materials in the landscape plantings, the main hardscapes of walkways, signage and monumentation, lighting, fencing, wayfinding, bus stops, etc.

Along its approximately 3.5 to 4 mile length, Veterans Boulevard will have a collection of locations for public art to act as veteran monuments. These locations will be designated and designed for future pocket parks or rest areas along the trail. These areas will be left as blank slates to be used for City sponsored design competitions.



Franklin Street Park entrance and an example of a pocket park/rest area.



The concept provides that as funds become available from various sources a public competition will be held for each location. The City will determine the criteria for each prospective monument. Local and national participation will be encouraged to provide the City with the broadest and highest quality submittal. The City will establish its own criteria for selection, chose to award or not, and if so, proceed through the design and construction phase as a normal city project.

Through the process of constructing the boulevard and trail all the infrastructure will be placed. This includes stubbing electrical, water, and gas to each of the monument sites.

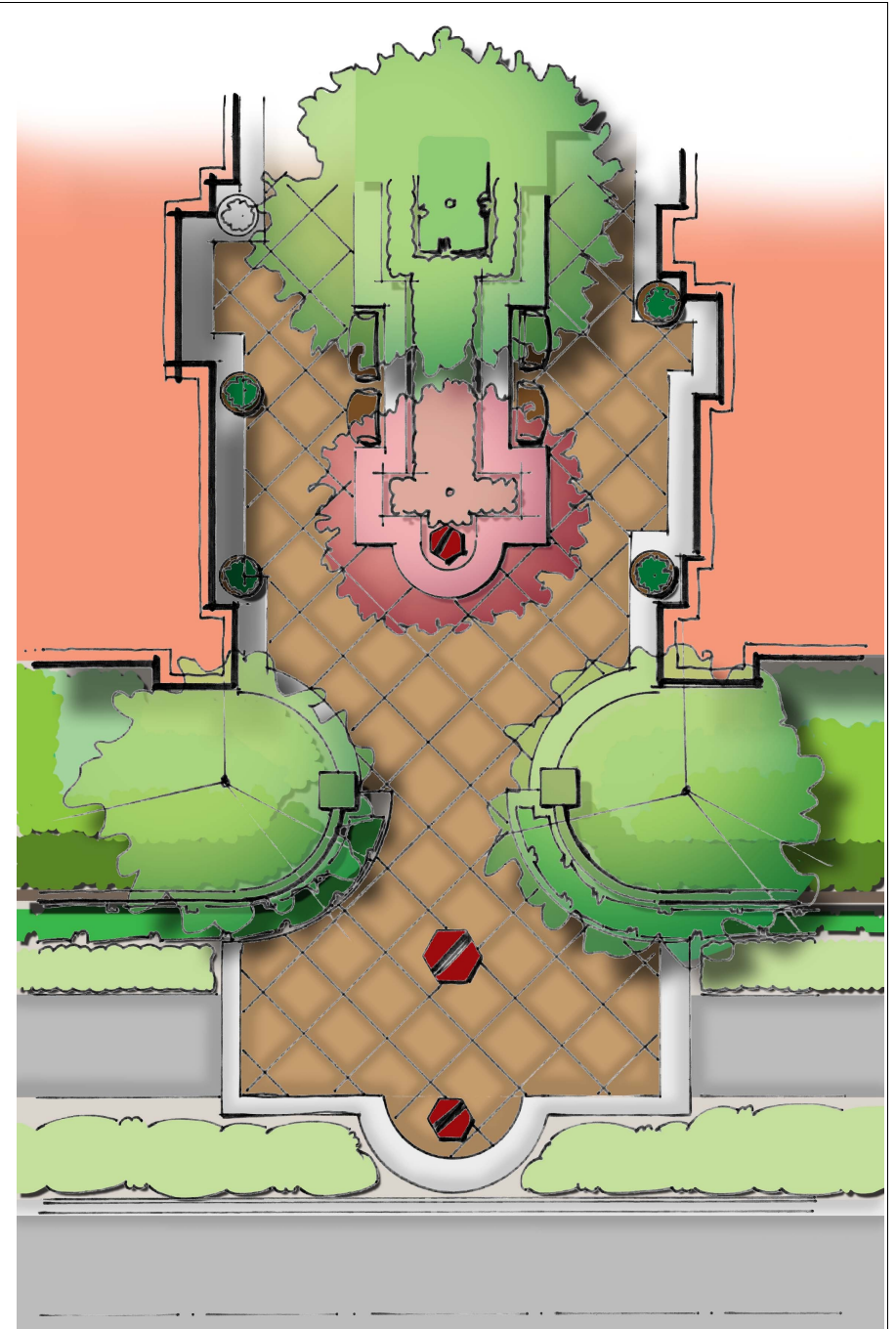
While the number of formal competitive monument locations will ultimately be determined by the City, Veterans Boulevard could easily hold as many as 20 of these sites.

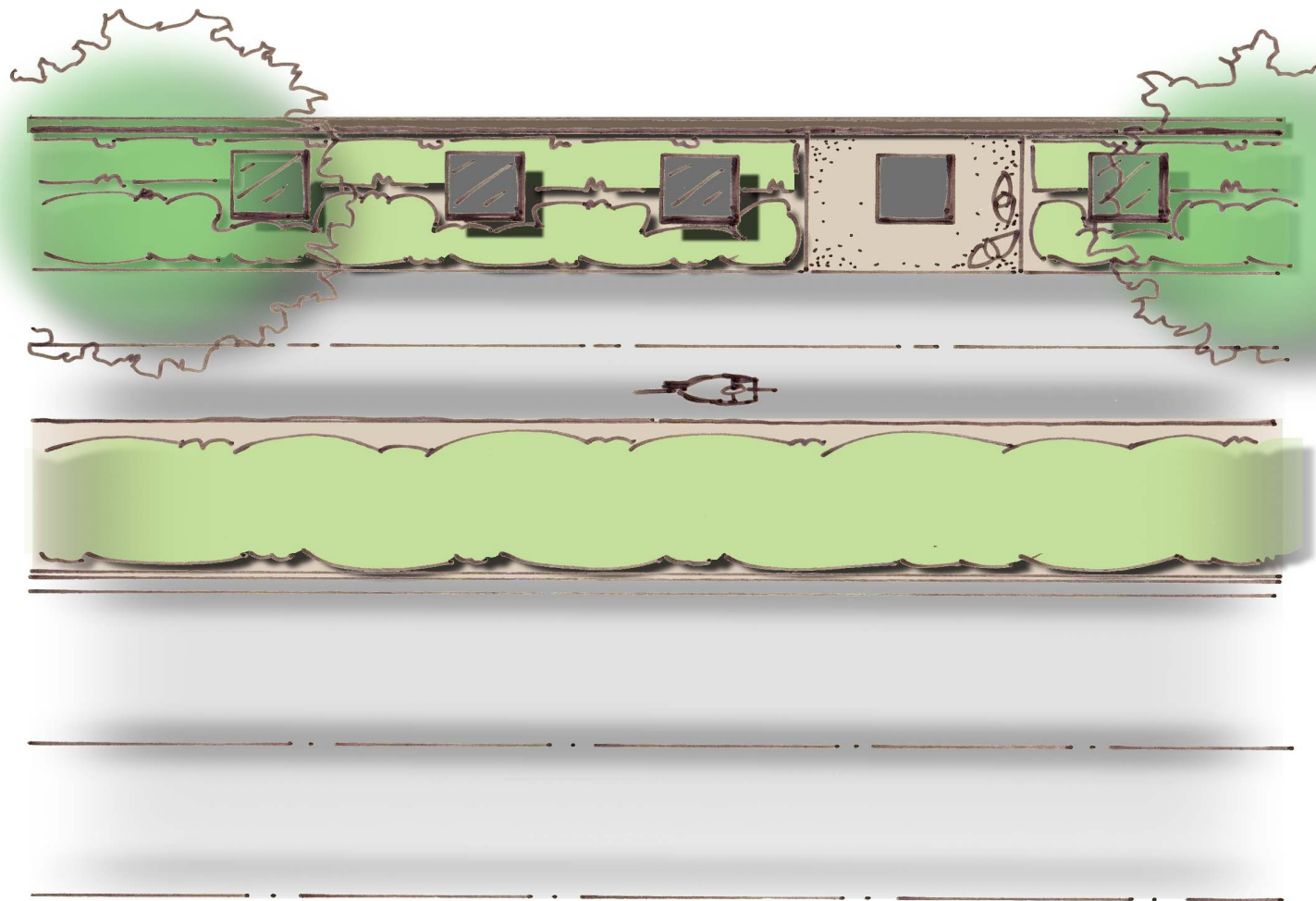
In this way, the city creates a themed monument drive with a great variety through its individual public art projects.

Veterans Boulevard as envisioned has the potential to become a major regional, or even national, attraction.

Monument Sites

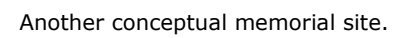
The example left is the possibility of what a monument site may look like. The site is visually connected to the Boulevard and integrated with the trail. Signage directs travel and provides information. The space is large enough for small groups. Seating, water and shade are available.





Another concept of a monument site.





Monumentation:

As a potential concept, the monument collection of Veterans Boulevard could focus on military service from the country's beginning and California's participation as appropriate since statehood. This could also reflect famous citizen officers/leaders and conflicts. A potential list might look like this:

The American Revolution
The War of 1812
Mexican-American War
California in the Civil War
The Spanish-American War
World War I
World War II
The Korean War
The Vietnam War
Desert Storm
Operation Enduring Freedom
Iraqi Freedom

Further:

Bridges, buttresses and other structural opportunities could be used to pay tribute to the various branches of the military.

Additionally:

The city could, by either research, requested submission, or contest, pay tribute to a California Veteran that made a significant positive contribution to the cause of freedom.



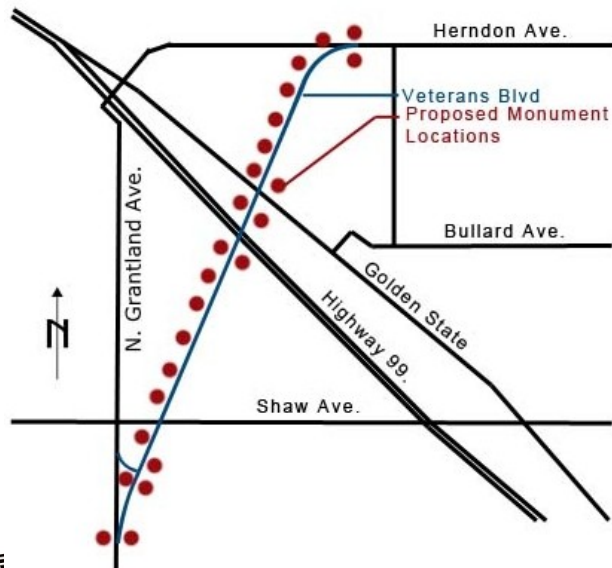
Examples veteran monumentation:



The Monument Tour:

It is envisioned that these sites will be accessed by all modes of transportation. As the design of Veterans Boulevard continues, it is proposed that monument sites of equal distance and spacing, where possible, will be taken into consideration. This would provide for the design to allow for better circulation of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and bus riders, pullouts for buses, and safe distances for merging back into traffic.

Veterans Boulevard become its own monument district, a destination, a tour of historical representation. The future built monuments will be included as part of an on-going K-12 real-life non-traditional educational tour program that will help give insight into real peoples lives that gave service to the country. It could be self guided, each site having its own information display. It could be done using a printed information guide. It could be a audio tour narrated by a looped recording and accessed using individual cell phones. It could be lead and narrated by a Tour Guide live.



MobiTour Audio Guide at the Henry Moore Exhibit Kew Gardens